SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Government has been giving financial assistance by way of plan and non-plan loans to Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited (HSCL). HSCL on its own has also been making efforts to improve its performance by identifying jobs to be taken in the steel sector, reduction in establishment cost and improvement in efficiency of man power.

(b) The Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) is a voluntary scheme, and the question of enforcing it does not arise. VRS has been in operation in HSCL since 1988 & as on 30th November, 1993, 4116 employees have opted for VRS. HSCL has also not written to Labour Departments of State Governments seeking approval for retrenchment of labour force.

Modernisation of Bokaro Steel Plant

1167. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state the companies shortlisted for taking the work of modernisation of Bokaro Steel Plant indicating the expenditure involved and targets set therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): Government have on 23-7-1993 approved the investment proposal of Steel Authority of India Limited to modernise Bokaro Steel Plant (Stage I) at an estimated capital cost of Rs. 1625.79 crores inclusive of foreign exchange component of Rs. 283.50 crores. The project will be implemented by July, 1997.

The companies so far short listed for the global packages as prime bidders are as follows:—

(i) M/s. Mannesman Demag Huttentechnik, Germany.

(ii) M/s. Voest Alpine, Austria.

(iii) M/s. Davy International, England.

(iv) M/s. SMS Schloemann Siemag, Germany.

(v) M/s. Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi.

(vi) M/s. Mannesmann Demag Sack, Germany.

(vii) M/s. United Engineering Inc., USA.

(viii) M/s. Mitsubishi Corporation, Japan.

Higher Growth Rate in Steel Consumption

1168. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the current decade is likely to witness a higher growth rate in steel consumption in developing countries than in developed countries;

(b) if so, whether the market potential has been assessed for steel exports to the developing countries; and

(c) what are the plans in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The large public sector steel producers like SAIL are aware of the likely increase in steel consumption in the developing countries and are keeping abreast with the latest trends in the international market for steel products. They have planed to maximise their export thrust to developing countries and newly industrialised countries like china, Burma, Malaysia, Thailand, Taiwan, Indonesia, Nepal, Bangladesh, etc.

Diatari Steel Project in Orissa

1169. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state the stage at which the proposed Daitari Steel Project in Orissa stands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): The foreign investment proposal for setting up a steel plant near